

Jerna Mitchell

Experience

- Jerna Mitchell has been the New Employee Training Manager for Utah's Division of Child and Family Services since 2001.
- As the New Employee Training Manager (NETM), Jerna has been able to continue her work in Practice Model development and is now assisting in the revisions. She is particularly attached to the Practice Model Glossary and loves creating games and fun activities to teach and review Practice Model concepts. She works with the Training Steering Committee, which is currently looking at a number of issues.
- Jerna is committed to mentoring and considers it invaluable in fully training concepts, tools, and skills. Mentoring provides staff with the opportunity to have real casework experiences with skills they have learned in Practice Model and other trainings. Jerna has spearheaded the compilation of a Mentoring Guide to support mentoring programs across the state.
- Before coming to the state office, Jerna worked for one year as the Region Training Manager in Southwest Region. Most of that time was spent involved in the development and training of Practice Model. During that time she also trained to provide AISIAS training and continued her commitment to Domestic Violence programs and training. She was fortunate to be able to participate as a facilitator with the Utah Victim Assistance Academy and continues with that project. Previous to that, Jerna worked as a Domestic Violence counselor for five and one half years in Piute, Garfield, Kane, and Beaver Counties, before moving on to Iron County. She helped begin an advocacy program in Kane County. In Iron County she spent one year as the chair of the County Domestic Violence Coalition. She serves on the Utah Domestic Violence Advisory Council and the Government Affairs Committee.
- Jerna's work with Child and Family Services began in the small rural counties of Garfield and Piute where she was a generic Social Worker, providing Child Protective Services as well as in-home and out-of-home services.
- Jerna worked for one year in a Native American residential treatment facility as a caseworker, where she learned to appreciate the different Native American cultures.
- Jerna did her internship at the Southwest Center working with challenged adolescents and children. She co-facilitated groups for troubled adolescents 14 through 15 years old and behavior disordered youth ages five through nine years.
- Jerna's hobbies include singing in the church choir and at home whenever she can get away with it (the risk is her children pelting her with pillows), counted cross-stitch, writing, reading, family history, and playing games with her children.

Education

B.S. in Psychology with minor in Sociology and Social Work from Utah State University.